Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00484 091401Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCS-03 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4017
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0484

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: SHUM, HA
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS REPORTS ON HAITI

REF: (A) GENEVA 31, (B) 76 STATE 313834, (C) 76 PORT AU PRINCE
3584 (NOTAL)

1. FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH SOURCES IN PORT AU PRINCE HAVE SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON RECENT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC) ACTIVITIES IN HAITI. ICRC DID MAKE A VISIT TO HAITI IN FEBRUARY 1976 AND DID INSPECT SOME HAITIAN PRISONS AND MET SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS. VISIT WAS MADE AS A RESULT OF REQUEST THAT HAD BEEN PENDING FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS. FACT OF VISIT IS WIDELY KNOWN IN INFORMED CIRCLES IN PORT AU PRINCE, AND RECENT ISSUE OF EXILE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK EVEN NAMED FRENCHMAN RAYMOND BERNARD AS LEADER OF THE ICRC TEAM. EXILE PAPER CLAIMED GOH HOODWINKED ICRC INVESTIGATORS BY MOVING MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM INFAMOUS FORT DIMANCHE FOR DURATION OF ICRC VISIT. RELIABLE LOCAL SOURCE INFORMS US, HOWEVER, THAT ICRC TEAM WAS DENIED PERMISSION TO VISIT FORT DIMANCHE FOR MILITARY SECURITY REASONS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND ICRC AGAIN VISITED HAITI EARLY SEPTEMBER APPARENTLY FOR PURPOSE OF DELIVERING REPORT PREPARED AFTER FEBRUARY VISIT. PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE
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DUVALIER PERSONALLY RECEIVED THE ONLY COPY. REPORT, AND FACT OF VISIT, IS TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL BY ICRC. DURING SEPTEMBER VISIT ICRC REPRESENTATIVES ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION TO DETERMINE IF MEDICINES, BOOKS, AND OTHER ITEMS DELIVERED TO PRISON AUTHORITIES BY HAITIAN RED CROSS FOLLOWING FEBRUARY VISIT ACTUALLY REACHED PRISONERS FOR WHOM THEY WERE INTENDED.

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ALTHOUGH THIS FOLLOW-UP VISIT WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE
IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, GOH HAS NOT YET, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,
GIVEN PERMISSION FOR IT TO TAKE PLACE. WE HAVE HAD ONE
UNCONFIRMED REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT GOH BEGAN IMPROVEMENTS
AT FORT DIMANCHE FOLLOWING DECEMBER 24, 1976 AMNESTY.
THIS LED LOCAL RED CROSS SOURCE TO SPECULATE THAT
GOVERNMENT MIGHT PERMIT NEXT ICRC INSPECTION TO INCLUDE
FORT DIAMANCHE.
ISHAM

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